## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

**Policy number - 01-2018**

**Approval Date – May 22, 2018**

**Review Date – May 2023**

Resolution 034-2018

### PURPOSE

In accordance with Section 216.1 of the *Municipal Government Act,* this Public Participation Policy has been developed to recognize the value of public participation and create opportunities for meaningful public participation in decisions that directly impact the public.

To provide direction to Administration on how to involve stakeholders in providing input into decisions that affect the community.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Public Participation leads to better decisions and is a shared responsibility of Council, Administration and the community.

Council and Administration recognize that quality public participation is a critical component of good governance and as such The Village of Hay Lakes is committed to providing adequate resources and the appropriate levels of engaging Municipal Stakeholders in the following:

1. Creating opportunities for Municipal Stakeholders who are affected by a decision to influence the decision;
2. Promoting sustainable decisions by recognizing various Municipal Stakeholders diversity of needs, abilities, viewpoints and interests.
3. Providing Municipal Stakeholders with the appropriate information and tools to engage in meaningful participation; and
4. Council to openly and clearly communicate public participation outcomes, including how the information was used in the decision- making process and makes decisions in the best interest of the community.
5. Recognizing that although councillors are elected to consider and promote the welfare and interest of the Municipality as a whole, facilitating Public Participation for matters beyond those where public input is statutorily required can enrich the decision- making process.

### DEFINITIONS

* 1. “Administrator”means the chief administrative officer of the Municipality or their delegate.
	2. Municipal Stakeholders”refers to the Village of Hay Lakes residents, businesses, school and all other individuals, organizations or persons that may have an interest in, or are affected by, a decision made by the Village of Hay Lakes.
	3. “Municipality”means the Village of Hay Lakes.
	4. “Public Participation” Includes the various non-statutory opportunities The Village of Hay Lakes provides to the community to receive information and/or provide input into decision making through public meetings
	5. “Public Participation Tools**”** means the tools that may be used, alone or in combination, to create Public Participation opportunities including, but not limited to:
		1. in-person participation which may include at-the-counter interactions, door- knocking, interviews, meetings, round-tables, town halls, open houses and workshops;
		2. written participation which may include written submissions, email, and mail- in surveys, and polls
		3. representative participation which may include being appointed to an advisory committee, committee or citizen board.
	6. “Public Participation Plan” means a plan which identifies which Public Participation Tools to be used to obtain public input in a particular circumstance.

### POLICY RESPOSIBILITIES

### Council Responsibilities

* 1. Council shall:
		1. review and approve Public Participation Plans developed by the Administrator in accordance with this Policy or as directed by Council;
		2. consider input obtained through Public Participation; and
		3. review this Policy to ensure the Policy complies with all relevant legislation, municipal policies and the spirit and intent of Public Participation.
		4. Promote and support Public Participation;
		5. Request and review information from the Administrator on the scope, timing, appropriate methods and resources required for Public Participation prior to directing the development of a Public Participation Plan.

### Administration Responsibilities

* 1. Administrator shall:
		1. in accordance with this Policy or as directed by Council, develop Public Participation Plans, for Council approval;
		2. implement approved Public Participation Plans; and
		3. report the findings of the Public Participation to Council.
		4. consider timing, resources and engagement when developing and modifying Public Participation Plans;
		5. evaluate the effectiveness of the Public Participation Plan and the Public Participation Tools used in a particular circumstance;
		6. communicate to Council and the community, when appropriate, the effectiveness of a Public Participation Plan and the Public Participation Tools used; how public input was gathered and used in Administrative recommendations to council.
		7. develop the necessary procedures to implement this Policy;
		8. Make recommendations to Council on appropriate resources required for Public Participation, when council directs public input on a specific issue or item
		9. Bring forward resourcing requirements to ensure public participation programs and services are run effectively and consistently.
		10. Assess this policy and make recommendations to Council about the Public Participation and resourcing.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

1. Administration shall develop and implement a Public Participation Plan in the following circumstances:
	1. when new programs or services are being established;
	2. when existing programs and services are being reviewed;
	3. when identifying Council priorities;
	4. when gathering input or formulating recommendations with respect to budget;

* 1. gathering community input following a presentation of proposed business plans and budgets
	2. when gathering input or formulating recommendations with respect to the Municipality’s capital plan and/or financial plan; or
	3. When gathering input or formulating recommendations with respect to the Municipality’s strategic plans or business plans;
	4. as otherwise directed by Council.

### POLICY EXPECTATIONS

### Legislative and Policy Implications

* 1. All Public Participation will be undertaken in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act*, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and any other applicable legislation.
	2. All Public Participation will be undertaken in accordance with all existing municipal policies.
	3. This Policy shall be available for public inspection and may be posted to the Municipality’s website.
	4. This Policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.

### Public Participation Standards

* 1. Public Participation activities will be conducted in a professional and respectful manner.
	2. Public Participation plans will consider early, ongoing and diverse opportunities to provide input.
	3. Municipal Stakeholders who participate in any manner of Public Participation are required to be respectful and constructive in their participation. Municipal Stakeholders who are disrespectful, inappropriate or offensive, as determined by Administration, may be excluded from Public Participation opportunities.
	4. The results of Public Participation will be made available to Council and Municipal Stakeholders in a timely manner in accordance with municipal policies.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLANS

1. When so directed by this Policy or Council, the Administrator shall develop a Public Participation Plan for approval by Council which shall consider the following:
	1. the nature of the matter for which Public Participation is being sought;
	2. the impact of the matter on Municipal Stakeholders;
	3. the demographics of potential Municipal Stakeholders in respect of which Public Participation Tools to utilize, level of engagement and time for input;
	4. the timing of the decision and time required to gather input;
	5. what information is required, if any, to participate; and
	6. available resources and reasonable costs.
2. Public Participation Plans will, at minimum, include the following:
	1. a communication plan to inform the public about the Public Participation plan and opportunities to provide input;
	2. identification of which Public Participation Tools will be utilized;
	3. timelines for participation;
	4. information about how input will be used;
	5. the location of information required, if any, to inform the specific Public Participation.

### REPORTING AND EVALUATION

1. Information obtained in Public Participation will be reviewed by Administration and a report shall be provided to Council.
2. The report shall include, at minimum, the following:
	1. an overview of the Public Participation Plan and how it was developed;
	2. an assessment of the effectiveness of the plan based on the level of engagement and the quality of input;
	3. a summary of the input obtained; and
	4. may include recommendations for future Public Participation Plans.
3. Reports shall be provided to Council for review